

## WEEKLY REPORT

# Environmental Protection Agency

## Enforcement Division

**SR-79 Realignment Project Final EIS, Riverside County, CA:** The Environmental Review Section sent comments on December 5, 2016 to Caltrans and the Riverside County Transportation Commission on the

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the SR-79 Realignment Project. ERS has been working with Caltrans and RCTC through the NEPA/404 integration process which has resulted in a preferred alternative for this highway project with fewer impacts than the alternative originally proposed. The original alternative would have bisected the Salt Creek Plain, which includes hundreds of acres of seasonally flooded vernal pool habitat. That alternative was removed through early coordination between the transportation agencies and resource agencies. Project refinements will allow Caltrans and RCTC to avoid all impacts to high value vernal pools. In addition, over 200 acres of the Salt Creek Plain, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has described as the most significant remaining vernal pool area in Riverside County, will be protected as part of the mitigation plan for the project. (Clifton Meek, 2-3370)

### **Grant Announcements**

### **Legislative Engagement**

### **Travel, Training, Public/National Meetings, and Speaking Engagements**

### **30-60 Day Outlook**

### **Other Information**

### **Internal to Region 9**

### **Confidential Information**